

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Title with the following (a marked-up version, showing the changes, is appended):

--PHOTOELECTRIC CONVERSION APPARATUS WHICH AVOIDS  
CERTAIN SHADING EFFECTS--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 4-6, 11, and 13, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claim 3, and add Claims 15-18, to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claim, showing the changes made thereto, is appended.

*Sub*  
*B1*      *In*  
(Amended) An image pickup apparatus comprising:  
a photoelectric conversion area in which a plurality of pixels are two-dimensionally arranged in horizontal and vertical directions, wherein each of said of plurality of pixels includes a photoelectric conversion element and an amplification element which amplifies a signal from said photoelectric conversion element to output the amplified signal;

a plurality of first vertical output lines which output sequentially signals from the pixels arranged in the vertical direction;

a plurality of second vertical output lines which output sequentially signals from the pixels arranged in the vertical direction;

a first horizontal output line which outputs sequentially the signals from said plurality of first vertical output lines; and

a second horizontal output line which outputs sequentially the signals outputted from said plurality of second vertical output lines,

wherein said first horizontal output line is arranged on a side of a first side of said photoelectric conversion area, said second horizontal output line is arranged on a side of a second side of said photoelectric conversion area, and said first side and said second side of said photoelectric conversion area are opposite to each other in the vertical direction;

a plurality of first load elements, wherein at least one first load element is arranged to each of said plurality of first vertical output lines; and

a plurality of second load elements, wherein at least one second load element is arranged to each of said plurality of second vertical output lines,

wherein said plurality of first load elements are arranged at a first horizontal output line side of said plurality of first vertical output lines, and said plurality of second load elements are arranged at a second horizontal output line side of said plurality of vertical output lines.

*a2 contd.*

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15. (New) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said plurality of first vertical output lines and said plurality of second vertical output lines are arranged alternately.

*a3*